

PATENT
Application 10/529,966
Attorney Docket 1047-025

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the consideration provided to this application, and respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

Claims 1, 15-17, 67-72, 74-76, and 82-88 are now pending in this application. Each of claims 1, 67-70, and 85 are in independent form.

The Restriction Requirement

In response to paragraph 1 of the Restriction Requirement, Group II, claims 69-72, 74-76, and 82-88 are elected. This election is made with traverse.

Each of independent claims 1, 67-70, and 85 recites "an internally crosslinked polymer comprising at least one hydrophobic substituent and at least one hydrophilic substituent." As recognized in the IPER, Blum (US 6,180,562) does not teach expressly or inherently "an internally crosslinked polymer comprising at least one hydrophobic substituent and at least one hydrophilic substituent." Thus, contrary to the Restriction Requirement, independent claims 1, 67-70, and 85 are not anticipated or obvious in light of Blum, and therefore all of the claims share a single general inventive concept. Consequently, the Restriction Requirement is improper and should be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in clear condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account 50-2504. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 434-972-9988 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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